

Message Text

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43

ACTION OES-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 NEA-06 IO-04 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5199

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TECH, EG

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE SOVIET SUPPLY OF POWER REACTOR TO EGYPT

1. RECENT REPORTS IN EGYPTIAN, FOREIGN AND LOCAL PRESS HAVE RAISED POSSIBILITY THAT EGYPT MIGHT ACQUIRE NUCLEAR REACTOR FROM SOVIET UNION. VIENNA "KURIER" OVER WEEKEND REPORTED THAT USSR HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO SELL "AN ATOMIC REACTOR FOR PEACEFUL USES TO EGYPT." STORY ADDS THAT PROPOSED US REACTOR SALE TO EGYPT HAD FAILED "DUE TO THE REFUSAL OF EGYPT TO ACCEPT SAFEGUARDS WHICH WOULD PREVENT THE MANUFACTURE OF ATOMIC WEAPONS."

2. THERE IS OBVIOUS SPECULATION GOING ON IN IAEA SECRETARIAT AND AMONG OTHER MISSIONS TO IAEA. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED THERE HAS BEEN INTENSE INTEREST HERE IN NATURE OF CONDITIONS WHICH US WAS PROPOSING AS PRECONDITION FOR REACTOR SALES TO EGYPT AND ISRAEL, AND MISSION HAS PROVIDED GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE NATURE OF SUCH CONDITIONS TO OTHER MISSIONS INCLUDING THE SOVIET MISSION.

3. THE CONCERN BEING EXPRESSED IN VIENNA NOW IS DIRECTED MORE TO WHETHER THE SOVIETS WOULD PROVIDE EGYPT WITH A REACTOR UNDER LESS STRINGENT CONDITIONS THAN THE US

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DEMANDED. USSR WOULD, OF COURSE, BE FULFILLING ITS

OBLIGATIONS UNDER ARTICLE III.2 OF THE NPT SIMPLY BY ASSURING THAT AN ADEQUATE SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT COVERED SALE OF REACTOR TO EGYPT AND THAT IAEA SAFEGUARDS WOULD BE APPLIED TO THE INSTALLATION. THIS WOULD, AS THEY VIEW IT, IN NO WAY LESSEN THEIR SUPPORT OF THE NPT OR THEIR OPPOSITION TO NON-PROLIFERATION.

4. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE ANY GUIDANCE DEPT MAY HAVE WHICH WE CAN USE IN RESPONDING TO INQUIRIES. WE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF SOVIETS HAVE RECEIVED SPECIFIC INFORMATION WITH RESPECT TO THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS WHICH US WISHED TO APPLY IN THE CASE OF THE EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI REACTOR SALES. WE REALIZE THE MATTER MAY BE SENSITIVE AND THAT NO GUIDANCE FOR USE WITH OTHER MISSIONS CAN BE FORTHCOMING. IN THIS CASE IS THERE ANYTHING WE CAN OR SHOULD SAY TO SOVIET MISSION. PORTER

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